SKY MASTERS

JUDGE PARKER

BLONDIE

BEN BOLT

LIL ABNER

REX MORGAN

ARCHIE

JULIE JONES

POGO

RIP KIRBY

Garden Notes

Question—When to Sow?

By M. V. CHESNUT, FRHS

Let's see now—where were we in this business of starting your seeds of the Rhode Island tomato indoors?

I presume you have already taken the first and most important step in writing in for your free seeds. If you haven't, I suggest that you get the lead out of your blue jeans and get that letter away today. Lazy gardeners who don't like writing letters can use the coupon on this page instead.

Not that there is any particular rush to get the seeds sown—you have lots of time for this. It is just that the supply of Rhode Island tomato seeds is limited, and when these are gone, I can't wangle any more, and I'll have to substitute seeds of a different tomato, which may not be so well adapted to our climate.

★ ★ ★

By the way, don't forget when writing in for your free seeds to enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope to carry your seeds back to you. Every year, I get a big pile of requests without any envelope, and sooner than disappoint these forgetful gardeners, I have to borrow from my wife's housekeeping allowance to buy stamps!

Now, about this business of **WHEN** to sow your seeds: In past years, I have usually started mine during the first week of April. Lots of gardeners, I know, get going a lot earlier than this, but I take a dim view of such early sowing.

When you keep a tomato plant kicking around the house too long, the soil in the pots becomes exhausted and the plants become "drawn" for lack of adequate light and too much warmth. Such plants are pooped before they ever get planted out and are later in bearing than plants started weeks later.

★ ★ ★

As a matter of fact, I am delaying my sowing this year until the weekend of April 11. Gradually over the years, the impression is forming in my mind that you get bigger crops and earlier fruits by sowing later and planting out earlier. My plants will go out around the middle of May under hotkaps, and while they will be little bits of things compared with the earlier starters, I'll bet a cookie I get ripe tomatoes sooner.

Now, about seed-sowing soil. Dirt from the backyard is seldom very satisfactory, as it usually contains too much clay, forming a hard crust on the surface after watering through which the little seedlings cannot penetrate.

★ ★ ★

However, if nothing else is available, sift it to get rid of lumps, stones, twigs, woodlice and cutworms, and mix it with sand and peat moss—two parts sifted soil to one of sand and one of peat, using the coarest grade of sand you can find.

If a good grade of sand isn't handy—that very fine stuff from the beach is useless—substitute vermiculite or perlite. Or, instead of mixing up your own seed-sowing mixture, you can buy a bag of all-purpose potting soil at the corner store and use it as is.

Tomorrow, we'll fill the fibre plant pots, fertilize the soil and start the seeds.

Free Seed Offer

GARDEN NOTES, THE DAILY COLONIST
VICTORIA, B.C.

Please send me your Rhode Island tomato seeds. I enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

I am a regular subscriber Yes..... No .....

Russians 'Warm' In Frozen South

Dominoes Can Be Fun

By JOSEPH MYLER

WASHINGTON (UPI)—An American scientist has brought back from 17 months with the Russians in frozen Antarctica the discovery that "dominoes is a very exciting game."

The scientist, Morton Rubin, told a news conference yesterday that he also discovered the Russians to be "warm, kindly, very outgoing" people who made him feel welcome and gave him everything he needed to do his work.

Rubin, 41-year-old U.S., weather bureau meteorologist, was holed up with 143 Russians and one Czech during the long Antarctic winter at the Soviet Mirny base. He visited a number of inland Russian bases as part of the International Geophysical Year scientific program.

He had nothing but praise for the Russians' scientific ability and for their conduct as human beings. Everybody worked hard.

For recreation, the Russians held chess tournaments, staged skits, did a lot of singing, threw a party everytime someone had a birthday, talked about home and played partnership dominoes.

"I discovered," he said, "that the way the Russians play it, dominoes is a very exciting game. It is very complicated and calls for great skill and strategy. You ought to see the way they slap the pieces down."

★ ★ ★

Rubin also came back impressed with Russian breakfasts. He said some of the Russians got tired of the food toward the end of their trick, but he never did. There was no bacon and eggs for breakfast but lots of cooked cereal, three or four different kinds of caviar, cheese, meat, tea and coffee.

The Russians kept live pigs at Mirny and had frozen fresh cabbage and lemons all the time he was there. They even grew some vegetables in window boxes at a time when the outside temperature got as low as 40 degrees below zero. He was invited, he said, to sample a cucumber one proud scientist had raised.

★ ★ ★

The Russians had wine, including "some good champagne," as well as vodka, but he didn't sample much of it, Rubin said.

Nor did he participate in the skits, but he did circulate records of both popular and classical music among his colleagues. The Russians were particularly interested in boogie-woogie and jazz, he said, and also some Stravinsky records, none of which they had heard before.

Hollywood Today — By Sheilah Graham

Rita Loud Uninvited Guest

HOLLWOOD (NANA)—Their intimates anticipate an announcement from the **Rita Hayworth-Jim Hill** marriage. Rita was most annoyed that she was not invited to the Escoffier Room party given her ex-husband, **Prince Aly Khan,** by the **Ray Starks.** She invited herself, danced with Aly, didn't seem to enjoy the experience—and said so, quite loudly.

★ ★ ★

Debbie Reynolds writes from Madrid that she is finding "My Burbank High School Spanish very useful." Ambassador **John Lodge** threw a dinner party for the popular actress and the rest of the "It Started With a Kiss" cast.

★ ★ ★

Afterthoughts on **Bob Hope's** "Alias Jesse James" premiere: Nine-year-old **Evelyn Rudie** a vision in white mink cape and mink hat. Except for her straight yellow hair, she reminded me of Shirley Temple when the latter was a golden-curled child star . . . A very blonde blonde in skintight dress trying to look like **Mamie Van Doren,** and hoping to be "discovered." People merely gaped.

★ ★ ★

John Wayne, back in town after being honored in Washington, D.C., by the Civil War Centennial Commission, wants **William Holden** and **Connie Towers,** his co-stars in "The Horse Soldiers," to be with him again in "The Alamo." The film starts shooting around September at Bracketville, Tex.

★ ★ ★

Jeanne Crain cannot play the Mother Superior for producer **Al Zugsmith** in "Girls Town," because the picture must start in mid-April and Jeanne will then be in the middle of four weeks of rehearsing for the "Meet Me in St. Louis" spectacular.

Winning Contract

By SCHENCKEN AND FREY

Vul: N–S
Score: N-S +60

NORTH
♠ A 10 4
♡ A Q 6
◊ 9 8 3
♣ Q 8 6 2

WEST
♠ 5 2
♡ 10 5 4 3
◊ A K 10 6 2
♣ 5 4

EAST
♠ K J 9 7
♡ 9 8 2
◊ J 5
♣ J 10 9 3

SOUTH (D)
♠ Q 8 6 3
♡ K J 7
◊ Q 7 4
♣ A K 7

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 N.T.	2 ◊	2 N.T.	All Pass

Opening lead: ♡ 3

For a good many years, Meyer (Butch) Schleifer has been the Western Conference's leading player. What distinguishes him from the many fine players is the oft-remembered fact that he can play well with any kind of partner, building fences around the weaker ones, and giving plenty of leeway to the more experienced, aggressive types. His bidding, dummy-play and defence are all of the highest order.

Sitting South in today's deal, Schleifer slightly shaded his opener which was one point short of a standard no-trump bid. North might have doubled West's diamond bid, but he elected to try for the 700-point rubber.

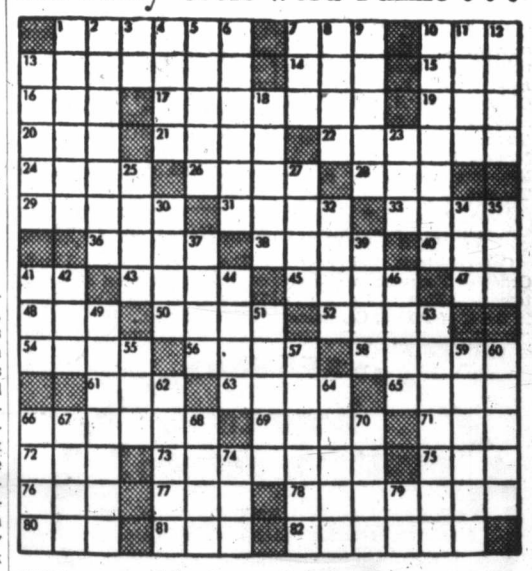
After the opening lead, declarer saw seven top tricks, with either spades or clubs providing the possibility of an eighth trick. However, clubs did not figure to break, and South could not afford to concede a spade trick, as the defence would then take at least five diamond tricks to set the contract. In order to sever opponents' communications, declarer won the heart lead with the jack, and returned a low diamond! East took his jack and shot back another diamond, West winning and cashing his entire suit. East sluffed two spades and a heart, while the declarer discarded two spades.

West played another heart, but the defence was already doomed. On the third round of hearts, East could not successfully discard. He was forced to blank the spade king or let go one of his clubs, and whichever he did, declarer was home free.

A defence against this coup exists, but it is practically double-dummy. West must play the diamond ten at trick two, and fire a spade. If dummy plays low, East wins the king and returns the diamond jack, overtaken by West who cashes his high diamonds. If North wins the spade return, declarer cannot win more than seven tricks before East-West make five diamonds and a spade.

Released by The Associated Newspapers

The Daily Cross-Word Puzzle . . .



ACROSS
1. Girl's name.
7. Policeman.
10. Pigpen.
13. A stupor (pl.).
14. Be in debt.
15. Hasten.
16. Alder tree (Scot.).
17. Edible.
19. Tierra del Feugo Indian.
20. Moccasin.
21. Asterisk.
22. Serfs.
24. Roman road.
26. Agitate.
28. Bring legal action against.
29. Babylonian numeral.
31. Danish weight (pl.).
33. Siamese weight.
36. Portico.
38. Wife of Geraint.
40. East Indian tree.
41. By.
43. Rail.
45. New Mexico Indian.
47. 51 (Roman num.).
48. Cut off.
50. Pound down.
52. Part of plant.
54. Fruit.
56. Harvest.
58. Appears.
61. Measure of length.
63. Strike.
65. Levantine ketch.
66. Sowed.
68. Paid athletes.
71. Nahoor sheep.
72. Girl's name.
73. Discreet.
75. Man's nickname.
76. Obtained.
77. Anglo-Saxon coin.
78. Beetles.
80. Beast of burden.
81. Label.
82. Compulsion.

DOWN
1. List of errors with corrections.
2. A set of quadrilles.
3. Preposition.
4. Covers with frosting.
5. Chairs.
6. Landed property.
7. Male swan.
8. Bird (pl.).
9. Pares.
10. Handled scoop with hollowed blade (pl.).
11. Prong of fork.
12. Affirmative votes.
13. Philippine women's sash.
18. Get up.
23. Bird.
25. Decays.
27. Lease.
30. Product of combustion.
32. Narrow inlets.
34. Mulberry.
35. 1051 (Rom. num.).
37. Sandarac tree.
39. Periods.
41. High mountain.
42. Pedal digit.
44. Core for fashioning metal objects (pl.).
46. Observes.
49. Fathers and mothers.
51. Segmented process of anthropods (pl.).
53. Disease.
55. Measure of distance.
57. Separated.
59. Excavators for ore.
60. Reads metrically.
62. Station.
64. French soldier.
66. Icelandic tale.
67. Son of Seth.
68. Girl's name.
70. Cicatrix.
74. Fall behind.
79. Symbol for tellurium.

Answer to Previous Puzzle:

S	T	A	F	F		C	H	A	D		S	T	A	R
M	O	U	R	I		H	A	L	E		A	R	I	A
O	R	R	I	S		A	N	I	L		M	A	S	T
W	E	A	T	H	E	R	S		E	L	A	I	N	E
			T	E	N	T		S	T	A	R	T	E	D
C	A	T	E	R	S		S	E	A	R				
A	C	E	R		U	N	A	D		N	A	B	A	L
S	N	A		S	E	A	L	I	N	G		O	R	A
T	E	R	S	E		V	O	L	A		A	L	A	S
			M	I	L	A	N		T	R	U	A	N	T
C	O	L	O	N	E	L		S	A	A	S			
E	D	I	L	E	S		B	E	L	I	T	T	L	E
L	E	A	D		S	E	A	N		S	E	R	O	W
L	U	N	E		E	R	N	E		E	R	O	S	E
O	M	A	R		R	E	D	S		S	E	D	E	R

(Released by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)